AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

16. through 38. (Car	nceled).
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1	39.	(New) A method of satisfying a resource request in a computer system for
2	configuring s	systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources, the method
3	comprising:	
4	instar	tiating in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,
5		wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of
6		elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model
7		hierarchy;
8	(a) ex	amining the configuration instance for an element offering a resource in response to
9		a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one of the
10		elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a combination of multiple
11		like resources;
12	(b) selecting the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;	
13	(c) se	lecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing
14		elements satisfy the resource request; and
15	(d) re	peating (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource
16		request.
1	40.	(New) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of multiple like
2	resources con	mprises pooled resources.
1	41.	(New) The method of claim 40 wherein each element offering a resource that
2	includes a po	ol of resources is a structural superior in the structural model hierarchy to an
3	element cons	suming the resource.
1	42.	(New) The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of the resources in the pool of

resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

2

1	43. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein one of the resources in the pool of		
2	resources satisfies the resource request.		
1	44. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the element offering the resource		
2	includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to provide		
3	the requested resource.		
4	45. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of multiple like		
5	resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element.		
1	46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein each element offering a resource		
2	includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in the		
3	structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.		
1	47. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein a plurality of the resources inherited		
2	from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.		
1	48. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein one of the resources inherited from at		
2	least one other element satisfies the resource request.		
1	49. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the configuration instance is empty wher		
2	a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance includes an existing		
3	configuration when an existing system is being updated.		
1	50. (New) An apparatus for configuring systems comprising:		
2	a processor;		
3	a memory coupled to the processor;		
4	a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a		
5	structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;		

6	a con:	figuration engine, stored in the memory and executable by the processor, to satisfy a
7		resource request using a resource comprising a combination of resources, wherein
8		the configuration engine includes code executable by the processor for:
9 .		instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;
10		(a) examining the configuration instance for an element offering a resource in
11		response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at
12		least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a
13		combination of multiple like resources;
14		(b) selecting the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;
15		(c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no
16		existing elements satisfy the resource request; and
17		(d) repeating step (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the
18		resource request.
1	51.	(New) The method of claim 50 wherein the combination of multiple like
2		mprises pooled resources.
۷	resources cor	inprises poored resources.
1	52.	(New) The method of claim 51 wherein each element offering a resource that
2	includes a po	ol of resources is a structural superior in the structural model hierarchy to an
3	element cons	uming the resource.
1	53.	(New) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of the resources in the pool of
2	resources con	mbine to satisfy the resource request.
1	51	(Now) The method of claim 51 wherein one of the resources in the nool of
1	54.	(New) The method of claim 51 wherein one of the resources in the pool of
2	resources sat	isfies the resource request.

1	55. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the element offering the re	source
2	includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is poole	d to provide
3	the requested resource.	
4	56. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the combination of multiple	le like
5	resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element	
1	57. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein each element offering a res	source
2	includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior	
3	structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.	
1	58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein a plurality of the resources	inherited
2	from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.	
1	59. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein one of the resources inheri	ted from at
	least one other element satisfies the resource request.	tou mom ut
2	least one other element satisfies the resource request.	
1	60. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the configuration instance	is empty wher
2	a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance includes an ex	isting
3	configuration when an existing system is being updated.	
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1	61. (New) An article of manufacture comprising code encoded therein	and
2	executable by a processor to cause the processor to:	
3	instantiate in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration	
4	wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hiera	
5	elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the stru	ictural model
6	hierarchy;	
7	(a) examine the configuration instance for an element offering a resource in	n response to a
8	request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least on	e of the
9	elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a combination	ı of multiple
10	like resources;	

11	(b) select the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;
12	(c) select a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements
13	satisfy the resource request; and
14	(d) repeat (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource
15	request.
1	62. (New) An apparatus for satisfying a resource request in a computer system for
2	configuring systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources comprising:
3	a processor;
4	a memory coupled to the processor;
5	a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a
6	structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;
7	means for defining a structural model hierarchy and a plurality of resources offered by
8	elements in the structural model hierarchy;
9	means for instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;
10	(a) means for examining the configuration instance for an element offering a resource in
11	response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one
12	of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a combination of
13	multiple like resources;
14	(b) means for selecting the element when the resource has not been previously consumed;
15	(c) means for selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no
16	existing elements satisfy the resource request; and
17	(d) means for causing (a) through (d) to search for another element to satisfy the resource
18	request when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.